

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 01798 051855Z

50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 NSCE-00 /051 W

----- 031947

O 051650Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7752

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1798

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG, GR

SUBJ: CHANGES IN ARMY LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCED

1. SUMMARY. DEFENSE MINISTRY MARCH 4 ANNOUNCED NUMBER OF CHANGES IN ARMY HIERARCHY, INCLUDING RETIREMENT TWO LT. GENERALS, 5 MAJOR GENERALS AND 15 BRIGADIER GENERALS. CURRENT ARMY CHIEF DAVOS HAS RETAINED HIS POSITION. WHILE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT PLACED CHANGES WITHIN TWO-POINT PROGRAM OF GOG TO BOTH PURIFY ARMY AND IMPROVE ITS QUALITY, EFFECTS TO DATE AS TO FIRST OF THESE POINTS DO NOT REPT NOT SEEM TO CONSTITUTE "PURGING" WITHIN ARMY SENIOR RANKS. IN WAKE OF POPULAR AND POLITICAL OPPOSITION DEMANDS FOR DEJUNTIZATION AND FOLLOWING CLOSELY UPON HEELS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 01798 051855Z

OF LAST WEEK'S "MILITARY CONSPIRACY" REVELATIONS, GOG'S DESIRE TO

MAKE POLITICAL CAPITAL OUT OF TRADITIONAL ANNUAL REVIEW PROCEDURES WITHIN ARMY IS UNDERSTANDABLE. ARMY WILL NOW BE REVIEWING FILES OF NON-FLAG RANK OFFICERS IN COMING DAYS AND WEEKS AND RESULTS OF THESE REVIEWS MUST BE AWAITED TO DETERMINE FINALLY WHAT SORT OF OVERALL CLEANSING THE GOG WILLING TO IMPLEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTRY DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT MARCH 4 CONFIRMED THAT ARMY SENIOR REVIEW BOARDS HAD MET AND DECIDED UPON RETIREMENT OF TWENTY-TWO FLAG-RANK OFFICERS, I.E. 2 LT. GENERALS, 5 MAJOR GENERALS AND 15 BRIGADIER GENERALS. MINISTRY'S ANNOUNCEMENT NOTED THESE ACTIONS TAKEN WITHIN FRAMEWORK GOVERNMENT PROGRAM TO BOTH PURIFY AND QUALITATIVELY IMPROVE ARMED FORCES AND THAT STANDARDS FOR MAKING DECISIONS INCLUDED A) OFFICERS' PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITIES B) CRITERIA REGARDING LOYALTY TO DEMOCRATIC REGIME, AND C) NECESSITY TO ACHIEVE PROPER DEVELOPMENT WITHIN HIGHEST RANKS WHICH HAD BEEN DISTURBED BY ACTIONS OF DICTATORSHIP.

3. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT ONLY TWO LT. GENERALS WERE RETIRED, I.E. THE MINIMUM NUMBER REQUIRED BY OPERATIVE LAW WHICH DEMANDS THAT 20PERCENT OF THAT RANK ANNUALLY LEAVE THE SERVICE. IT APPEARAS ALSO THAT THE SELECTION OF THE 5 MAJOR GENERALS SENT INTO RETIREMENT WAS IN NO SENSE "PERSONAL" BUT RATHER "STATUTORY," I.E. AN OFFICER JUNIOR TO ALL FIVE HAD BEEN SELECTED FOR LT. GENERAL. SIMILARLY, THE 15 BRIGADIER GENERALS SLATED FOR RETIREMENT WERE FORCED TO DEPART BECAUSE OF PROMOTIONS TO MAJOR GENERAL OF OFFICERS JUNIOR TO THEM.

4. PRINCIPAL CHANGES OF ASSIGNMENTS RESULTING FROM THESE RETIREMENTS INCLUDED THE APPOINTMENT OF LT. GENERAL AGAMEMNON GRATSIOS AS COMMANDER OF THE FIRST ARMY (IN LARISSA), THE ASSIGNMENT OF LT. GENERAL CONSTANTINE KRITIKOS AS "C" ARMY CORPS COMMANDER (THESSALONIKI) AND THE POSTING OF MAJOR GENERAL SPYRIDON MARCOPOULOS AS COMMANDER OF ASDEN (MILITARY COMMANDER OF ATHENS AND THE ISLAND). IT IS WORTHY OF NOTE THAT MAJOR GENERAL MARCOPOULOS WAS NOT PROMOTED TO LT. GENERAL (EVEN THOUGH A VACANCY EXISTS) IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SUCH A PROMOTION WOULD HAVE RESULTED INTER ALIA IN THE FORCED RETIREMENT OF SEVERAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 01798 051855Z

ADDITIONAL MAJOR GENERALS WHO WERE MUCH MORE STRONGLY TAINTED BY JUNTA ASSOCIATIONS THAN OTHERS WHO DID LEAVE.

5. DEFENSE MINISTRY ALSO ANNOUNCED THE CALL BACK OF 17 OFFICERS (3 BRIGADIER GENEALS AND 14 COLONELS) WHO HAD BEEN RETIRED DURING THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. PRELIMINARY VETTING OF THESE NAMES SHOWS MANY WERE RELATIVELY JUNIOR IN THEIR GRADE AT THE TIME OF THEIR RETIREMENT AND

THAT THEIR RETIREMENTS WERE EFFECTED WITHIN PAST FEW YEARS ONLY AND NOT DURING MONTHS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING APRIL 1967 COUP OR DECEMBER 1967 COUNTERCOUP ATTEMPT.

6. IT IS EXPECTED THAT PARLIAMENT WILL APPROVE TODAY OR TOMORROW A PROPOSED LAW WHICH WILL PERMIT ARMY REVIEW BOARDS TO CONSIDER FILES OF ALL OFFICERS, REGARDLESS OF TIME IN GRADE OR NATURE OF ASSIGNMENT, IN THE RANKS BETWEEN 2ND LIEUTENANT AND COLONEL DURING FORTHCOMING SEATING OF ADDITIONAL ARMY REVIEW PANELS. ON FACE OF IT, THIS WOULD SEEM TO GIVE GOVERNMENT INDISPENSABLE TOOL IF IT WISHED TO PROMOTE OFFICERS OF ITS OWN CHOOSING AND/OR ATTEMPT TO FORCE INTO RETIREMENT OFFICERS TAINTED BY JUNTA ASSOCIATIONS.

7. WHILE INITIAL SCRUTINY FAILS TO SHOW THAT CURRENT GROUP OF RETIREMENTS COMPRISES A TRUE CLEANSING OR PURGE (IN SENSE OF DEJUNTIZATION), FACT THAT ANNOUNCEMENT CAME SO SWIFTLY UPON HEELS OF LAST WEEK'S "MILITARY CONSPIRACY" REVELATIONS CONSTITUTES A "PLUS" FOR GOVERNMENT IN EYES OF PUBLIC--AT LEAST IN THE IMMEDIATE SENSE. ALL NEWSPAPERS MARCH 5 HEADLINED STORIES WITH SUCH LEADERS AS "PHASE A OF CLEANSING" (APOYEVMATINI) AND "THE TOUGH GUYS (SKLIROI) OUT OF ARMY" (ATHENAIKI). ATHENAIKI ALSO ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY THOSE OFFICERS RETIRED WHOM IT CONSIDERS AS HAVING BEEN JUNTA OFFICERS, E.G. MAJOR GENERALS PAPAPHILIPPOU, SPYROPOULOS AND PAPATRIANDAFILOU. HOWEVER, AS NOTED ABOVE, THERE ARE OTHERS STILL ON ACTIVE DUTY WITHIN SAME RANKS WHO HAD BEEN MUCH MORE INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED WITH JUNTA.

8. OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT IS THAT GOVERNMENT MOVED FAST TO EFFECT CHANGES WITHIN ARMY RANKS IN HOPES THAT THIS SENSE OF MOTION WOULD BE ASSOCIATED BY PUBLIC WITH SENSE OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ATHENS 01798 051855Z

TRUE ACCOMPLISHMENT, AND THUS GAIN POLITICAL CAPITAL. FACT THAT GOVERNMENT MOVED TO REVIEW FLAG RANK OFFICERS IN MARCH RATHER THAN MAY THROUGH SPECIAL MINISTERIAL DECISION AND SUBSEQUENT LAW RUSHED THROUGH PARLIAMENT WOULD TEND TO SUPPORT THIS VIEW. OUR VIEW THAT MOTION SUBSTITUTED FOR SUBSTANCE ALSO BUTTRESSED BY FACT THAT THERE ARE BOTH LT. GENERALS AND MAJOR GENERALS REMAINING ON ACTIVE SERVICE WHO MUCH MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH PRIOR MILITARY REGIME THAN MOST OF THOSE RELEASED. HOWEVER, IF SUBSEQUENT REVIEWS OF OFFICERS IN COLONEL THROUGH LIEUTENANT RANKS RESULTS IN FORCING INTO RETIREMENT OF LARGE NUMBER OF OFFICERS ASSOCIATED IN MINDS OF PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION WITH JUNTA, OUR ASSESSMENT WOULD BE MODIFIED ACCORDINGLY. AT PRESENT TIME IT APPEARS THAT GOVERNMENT HAS ADROITLY USED TRADITIONAL METHODS EMPLOYED

BY ARMY IN ITS PROMOTION AND RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO ITS OWN BENEFIT, I.E. THROUGH MOVING VERY SWIFTLY ON HEELS OF LAST WEEK'S ARMY PLOT TO ANNOUNCE SENIOR MILITARY CHANGES, THUS ASSOCIATING CHANGES IN PUBLIC'S MIND WITH PARTIAL REALIZATION OF GOVERNMENT'S STATED GOAL TO BOTH PURIFY AND IMPROVE ARMY.

9. FROM SOLE VIEWPOINT GOG AIM TO IMPROVE CALIBER OF ARMY, DEFATT BELIEVES CHANGES ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY WILL RESULT IN HIGHER QUALITY PERFORMERS WITHIN FLAG RANKS.

10. DEFATT TRANSMITTING SEPARATE DETAILED REPORT ON SUBJECT.
KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, JUNTA, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS01798
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750077-0540
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750382/aaaacvsm.tel
Line Count: 183
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANGES IN ARMY LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCED
TAGS: MORG, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006